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AIR

Chronic American Disease

Gentlemen: The US Public Health Service defines chronic diseases as "diseases which are of long duration and normally leave a disabling residual."

The recent Cuban fiasco has once again produced an outbreak of an American chronic disease—blabbermouthitis. The symptom of this strange American phenomenon is the apparently mad rush for everybody and anybody who might be listened to as "being in the know" to say something about some disaster or internationally embarrassing incident which has just occurred. Further, people with blabbermouthitis say things without the slightest regard to the effect it has on our relations with others in this "cold-war" world. They say things which add grist to the Russian propaganda mill. They say things which could gravely compromise the efforts of our friends to bring their support of this country on some rationale of the intricacies of diplomacy and international protocol. In short, they say things which cause this nation great harm.

Oh, I can hear now, some will say. Don't the Russians fiddle around in other people's backyards? If the Russians can do it—so can we, right? Well, we will be among the first to admit our situation—but we say—the big difference is that the Russians don't talk about it! How many Russians have displayed blabbermouthitis over the paradrops in Laos? The Russians are not alone in believing that silence is golden. Many Belgians have blabbed all the way in defense or comment of their actions in the Congo? The answer is that it looks as if everybody in the world, except the Russians, knows that if you ignore a situation, the problem won't exist. Proof? We have a discussion of the Belgian Congo or the Russian Laos problem by the Belgians or the Russians. But WE have a problem in Cuba, WE have a problem in Formosa, and WE have that little problem of the

trial we give the Communists for probing, questioning, and propaganda.

Mr. K. made the statement that he had absolute proof of US meddling in Cuba. Well, Mr. K.'s statement is not so startling. Anybody could get the same proof and he didn't have to be a Red agent either. How about newspapermen who gave all the details (and pictures yet) of anti-Castro activities in Florida? How about the recent statement made by a member of Congress to the effect that the anti-Castro forces just could not get to Cuba without the help of the United States Navy? How about the sensational reports (it's news, brother) of CIA activities right down to the borrowing of American officers to help train the Cuban refugees? Intelligence? Heck no, brother—all Mr. K. has to do is read up on who has blabbermouthitis. We say that Mr. Stevenson is in one helluva spot when he tries to get us off the hook and then reads that some blabbermouth who is "in the know" has just sunk the barb in a little deeper.

Do we ask for censorship? No, we don't. What we do ask is that every newspaperman, every congressman, every member of the Executive Department, every member of the armed forces, and every government employee take stock of himself and his responsibilities to his country. The U-2 incident and the more recent Cuban fiasco are classics in the art of stumbling over yourself to say something when you ought to shut up. The damage done by the blabbermouths in these instances is irreparable. Unless the blabbermouths resist the temptation to just blab, to say something of importance, they will push us all over the brink and into the war we are trying so hard to avoid.

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